U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-128

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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KANSAS SAW-LOG PRODUCTION JUMPS 38 PERCENT FROM 1964 TO 1969

ABSTRACT. — About 23 million board feet of saw logs were harvested in Kansas during 1969. Volumewise, cottonwood, walnut, and elm were the most important species. Most of the wood residue generated at the 57 Kansas sawmills was not used.

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KEYWORDS: sawmills, residue, lumber, walnut, cottonwood.

Kansas loggers harvested 22.9 million board feet of saw logs in 1969 compared with 16.5 million board feet in 1964. All of the logs were hardwood. Cottonwood was the volume leader followed by walnut, elm, hackberry, ash, and sycamore (table 1). All of the logs were processed in the State except for 2.2 million board feet shipped to Missouri. Stumpage value of the saw-log harvest was second only to that of the veneer-log harvest.

Compared with 1964, ash saw-log output more than doubled, while cottonwood, sycamore, elm, and hackberry-log production rose 76, 65, 43, and 35 percent, respectively. Walnut saw-log production was slightly higher than in 1964. Demand for hackberry as a furniture wood has surged upward since 1964.

In the early 1900's the sawmill industry nearly perished. Since then lumber manufacturing has made a strong comeback (fig. 1). In 1969, the 57 sawmills operating in Kansas received 26.1 million board feet of saw logs, of which 7.1 million was walnut and 5.9 million was cottonwood. One-fifth of the total volume of saw logs came from out-of-State, primarily from Missouri and Oklahoma. Missouri was a large supplier of walnut logs.

Kansas sawmills cut 23.1 million board feet of lumber in 1969, about 19 percent more than in 1964. Between 1964 and 1969 production increased, even though 22 mills closed. Most of the mills that shut down were producing less than 1 million board feet

Table 1. — *Saw-log production, receipts, and movement, Kansas, 1969*
(In thousand board feet, International ¼-inch rule)

Species	Production			Out-of-State Receipts from					Receipts in Kansas
	Remained in Kansas	Shipped to Missouri	Total	Missouri	Oklahoma	Nebraska	Iowa	Illinois	
White oak	883	11	894	--	--	--	--	--	883
Red oak	763	354	1,117	--	--	--	--	--	763
Pecan hickory	306	3	309	50	80	--	--	--	436
Other hickory	55	10	65	22	--	--	--	--	77
Hard maple	25	--	25	214	--	--	--	--	239
Soft maple	1,191	25	1,216	--	--	--	--	--	1,191
Ash	1,359	37	1,396	72	--	--	--	--	1,431
Cottonwood	5,894	214	6,108	--	10	--	--	--	5,904
Basswood	70	--	70	--	--	--	--	--	70
Black walnut	2,738	1,412	4,150	2,846	639	287	439	146	7,095
Black cherry	25	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	25
Elm	3,062	46	3,108	72	51	--	--	--	3,185
Birch	75	5	80	--	--	--	--	--	75
Sycamore	1,253	50	1,303	72	--	--	--	--	1,325
Hackberry	2,990	--	2,990	214	8	175	--	--	3,387
Other hardwoods	59	12	71	--	--	--	--	--	59
All species	20,748	2,179	22,927	3,562	788	462	439	146	26,145

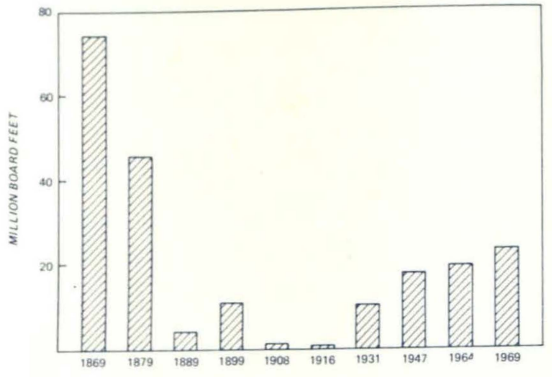

Figure 1. — *Kansas lumber production for selected years, 1869-1969. Sources: Lumber production in the United States, 1799-1946. U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Pub. 669, 1948. Lumber production and mill stocks, 1947. U.S. Dep. Com. Bur. Census. Annu. Rep. 1947.*

annually. Consequently, average annual lumber output per mill climbed from 246 to 405 thousand board feet.

Twenty-one of the 57 mills were considered of commercial size[1] in 1969. All but two of the commercial mills were in the eastern one-third of the State (fig. 2). One mill saws over 5 million board feet annually and each of six others saw between 1 and 5 million board feet annually. In contrast, only two mills sawed more than 1 million board feet in 1935.

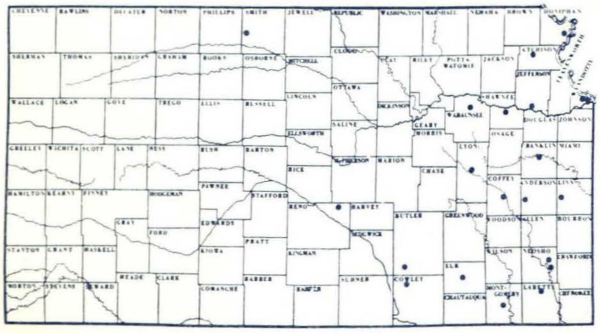

Figure 2. — *Kansas sawmills producing more than 100,000 board feet in 1969. Each dot represents a mill.*

[1] *A commercial sawmill produces more than 100,000 board feet annually.*

A significant portion of the lumber produced is used in furniture manufacturing and farm construction. Other important uses are gunstocks, pallets, boxing, and dunnage.

Most of the wood residue (slabs, edgings, sawdust, shavings) generated at sawmills is not used (table 2). Nearly 13,000 cords of coarse residue were produced in 1969, but none of this residue was used in pulp manufacturing. Only one pulpmill is located nearby, and the sawmills are not concentrated for efficient storage and delivery of residue to pulpmills. However, as wood procurement patterns change, the larger sawmills may find pulpwood markets developing for their coarse residue.

Two-fifths of the fine residue was used for mulch, livestock bedding, and specialty items. These markets are likely to expand for fine residue. Essentially none of the bark was used.

The 1969 data came from canvasses of all Kansas sawmills by the State Forester's staff and all Missouri sawmills by the Missouri Conservation Department. Both were cooperative studies with the North Central Forest Experiment Station. The Station also canvassed some sawmills in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska to determine if they bought any Kansas logs in 1969. Gratitude is expressed to the sawmill owners in Kansas and Missouri for making this study possible.

Table 2. — *Volume of residue produced at Kansas sawmills, by type of use, 1969*
(In thousand cubic feet)

Type of use	Wood residue			Bark
	Total	Coarse[1/]	Fine[2/]	
Fiber[3/]	--	--	--	--
Domestic fuel	123	117	6	10
Other[4/]	285	--	285	--
Not used	1,317	902	415	801
Total	1,725	1,019	706	811

1/ Material suitable for chipping, such as slabs and edgings.
2/ Material not suitable for chipping, such as sawdust and shavings.
3/ All residue used in manufacturing fiber products, such as pulp and hardboard.
4/ All residue used as livestock bedding, mulch, floor sweepings, and specialty items.

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